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Re : Latest Developments in the Ukraine (as of April/May 1968)

Source: 2 Tourists of Ukrainian origin who made a trip to the Ukraine , from 16 April to 11 May 1968

Date : 17 May 1968

Following is the gist of information obtained from two female tourists from Canada , a ^{single} college student in her mid-twenties and a married lady with partial college education in her early fifties, respectively. Both visited Kiev and Lvov, and spent some time in company of Svitlychny and Co.

1. Despite the reported KGB provocation, the preparation for a mass demonstration in Kiev to mark the anniversary of the transfer of Shevchenko's body on 22 May, continues. It is meant as a general protest against recent trials and present oppressive policy ~~on the~~whole.

The people in Kiev asked for someone from abroad to come at that time to Kiev to witness the planned manifestation, and especially asked for arrangements to get foreign correspondents for that purpose.

2. In March 1968 CHORNOVIL was transferred to Vinnytsia Prison. He was taken away all his books incl. Lenin's works, and also his wife was not allowed to see him. On 10 April 1968 Chornovil wrote a petition to the authorities demanding the return of his own books , and the right for his wife to visit him. In the petition, 5 pages long, he threatened that in case his demands won't be met he is going to start hunger strike on 1 May 1968.

Indeed, as on that date no reply came from the authorities, Ch. started his hunger strike. On 3 May he was artificially fed and his wife was granted permission to visit him "according to prison regulations".

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3. Early May 1968 students at Kiev University were admitted to the premises of the University only on showing their identification. *Card* This was explained among the students as a measure against the planned Shevchenko manifestation and the tense atmosphere among the studentry in general. Indirectly, it is also connected with recent developments in the CSSR and other satellite countries.

4. Attacks against Honchar for his "Sobor" continues. In the avantgarde of the attackers is SKABA. But 90 % of literary ~~publ~~ world is behind Honchar. There is a strong pressure on him from the party authorities to "recant" but so far he refuses to. Some people say that if he persists in his resistance he might be expelled from the Union of Writers of Ukraine. The present which-hunt against Honchar resulted in a wide demand for his book. However, it was withdrawn from many bookshops on order "from above".

5. On Yanovsky Cemetery in Lvov someone scraped the paint from the crosses on graves of Ukrainian soldiers and now the tridents on them could be seen quite clearly. In last two years it has been done several times. As a rule the city authorities repaint the crosses or rather tridents a few weeks after scraping.

6. Yuri M. Braychevsky, author of "Vozyednannia chy Przyednannia" and other books has been dismissed from his job at the University. His above mentioned book is read now as a work of Zakhatalyna literature. One of our Sources was to take this ^{manuscript} ~~manuscript~~ with her but at the last moment it was decided in Kiev against it, because of eventual customs search.

Zina FRANKO expects to be dismissed from her job at the Kiev University any day. She was involved in some "sakhalavny" business.

Also other dismissals were expected to forthcoming.

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7. The people in Kiev are for publications of Zakhalavna literature, ^{abroad} but asked not to identify them with emigrants. Any identification with "bourgeois nationalists" abroad was very harmful to them.

8. All the aid forthcoming from abroad is being used primarily to help those in prisons and camps, and their families.

9. According to KOROTYCH Vitali no editor of Suchasnist, not even Burghard would get now a visa to the Soviet Union. "Kiev would admit them but Moscow would surely be against them." Korytch himself is planning to go to VARNA for two months. On the whole he made an impression of being rather depressed. He stressed several times that now he had nothing to do with journalism "But only with poetry."

10. KOTSIUBYNSKA Mykhailyna who tried early 1968 to smuggle an article in candies to Prague through two Czech females, who were caught with it by Soviet customs, so far was not asked about it by Kiev KGB.

11. The people in Kiev highly praised Vira VOVK and Martha SKORUPSKY. Sw. said that more people like Martha should visit them and Ukraine in general.

12. LEVISHCHENKO tried to defend the present Soviet internal policies by explaining that Ukrainization cannot be accelerated in a Skrypnyk fashion because in the long run it would end similarly as in Skrypnyk's times.

He also tried to ignore recent trials and in his opinion there was too much ado about "two imprisoned individuals". He ~~also~~ explained that "we already are informing our public about it" and mentioned the article in Visti z Ukrayny as an example.

13. The protest of 160 created a real turmoil in Kiev and Moscow. Its "poignancy" is intensified by recent developments in CSSR.

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14. The customs control was very superficial on arrival and departure from Boryspol Airport, and Source brought to Kiev all the books, incl. Proleg publications and press cuttings on Chernovil and others.

15. Some people in Kiev consider Canadian Ukrainian communists as Ukrainian patriots and hope that people like Kravchuk Petro could do something good for Ukrainian cause. Source was given to read a letter of Kravchuk to Zina Franko in which the former criticized the cultural policy in the Ukraine and expressed his "sufferings" because of the incident with Liha KOSTENKO of two or three years ago when she refused to shake hands with him in Kiev.

The people in Kiev would like the Ukrainian communists in Canada to get deeper engaged in criticism of Soviet nationalities policy in the Ukraine and in their view it would help them very much.

16. The authorities want to make a new Tychyna out of Drach Ivan. He might even get a Lenin prize. These efforts are quite strong particularly after Drach made some indications that he would like to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of Sv., Dziuba and Co. The regime is at pains to deepen the wedge between Drach and his former friends.

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